

December 6, 2007

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## **Special needs plans and update on Medicare Advantage**

**ISSUE:** This session covers trends in Medicare Advantage plan payments, enrollment, and beneficiary access to plans. The written material also contains a discussion of the performance of MA plans on quality measures, a topic covered at the last public session. This session includes a discussion of a new MA plan type known as a special needs plan (SNP) that Congress created in the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act. Unlike other MA plans, SNPs are allowed to limit their enrollment to their targeted populations, an authority which is scheduled to expire December 2008.

**KEY POINTS:** We discuss the continued growth in enrollment in MA plans and those that have the greatest growth. We examine the level of payments and benchmarks in relation to fee-for-service expenditure levels. We describe SNP characteristics and growth and discuss recommendations.

**ACTION:** Commissioners will discuss and vote on the recommendations at the December meeting.

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